

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
December 7, 2004

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, December 7, 2004, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield.

Members present

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Members absent

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Others present

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
and others as per list attached

The Chairman called the meeting to order and Councilman Hudson gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited after the invocation.

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the following minutes of the Edgefield County Council:

October 5, 2004	Regular Meeting
October 21, 2004	Public Meetings
November 2, 2004	Regular Meeting
November 17, 2004	Work Session

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Reports carried.

Public Hearings

Public Hearings were held to receive written and/or oral comments from the public on the following ordinances:

Ordinance No. 04-05-550, "An Ordinance Adopting the 2003 International Building, Fire, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas and Energy Efficiency Codes, and the 2003 International Residential Code Relating to Inspection Activities for Enforcement of the Provisions of Said Codes."

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No comments were received on Ordinance No. 04-05-550.

Ordinance No. 04-05-554, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Not Exceeding \$1,500,000 in Amount of a Hospital Revenue Bond (The Edgefield County Hospital Project) of Edgefield County, South Carolina; Providing for the Form and Details of the Bond; Providing for the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Related Thereto.”

Councilman Hudson asked again if this loan would be paid back with the money that is allotted to Edgefield County. The administrator explained that there are two loans. One is a \$500,000 loan for some repairs – roof HVAC and other parts of the hospital. This is a loan that the hospital will pay back from the increase in the millage that the council approved for this tax year. This is a general obligation bond and pledges the taxing power of the county.

The \$1,500,000, the only thing that is pledged, which this is basically for the emergency room, is the hospital itself and its revenues. The \$1.5 million is a revenue bond and pledges only the hospital and its revenues.

If the hospital cannot make the payments on the \$1,500,000, the county will not be responsible. The lender could take the hospital facility itself- other than that only the revenues generated by the hospital come into play.

No comments from the public.

Ordinances

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 04-05-550, “An Ordinance Adopting the 2003 International Building, Fire, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas and Energy Efficiency Codes, and the 2003 International Residential Code Relating to Inspection Activities for Enforcement of the Provisions of Said Codes.” Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 04-05-551, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004B, or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, of Edgefield County, SC, in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding \$500,000; Fixing the Form and Details of the Bonds; Authorizing the County Administrator or His Lawfully Authorized Designee to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.” Motion carried unanimously.

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Councilman Kitchens made a motion to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 04-05-552, "An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for Edgefield County, South Carolina." The motion was seconded by Councilman Hudson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Kitchens made a motion to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 04-05-554, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Not Exceeding \$1,500,000 in Principal Amount of a Hospital Revenue Bond (The Edgefield County Hospital Project) of Edgefield County, South Carolina; Providing for the Form and Details of the Bond; Providing for the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Related Thereto." Councilman Bright seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

No Resolutions were scheduled for consideration.

New Business

Scoreboard

Number three under New Business (scoreboard) was moved to number one because of another meeting Mr. Durham had to attend. Mr. Durham, a Recreation Commissioner, spoke on behalf of the County Recreation League and also the Edgefield Town Council. "As you know, we are trying to get a basketball program – Nick has already had sign-ups and will be advertising in the paper for the next few weeks. We hope to get up to at least 120 kids to participate – ages 8 to 12 in the first year. It will be a competitive league unlike last year meaning that they will keep score. The Town of Edgefield will have to provide new doors on the front (gym). To replace the doors will be about \$6500 to \$7000. The town maintains the building: heat, fan, lights, etc. We are asking the county rec league to come up with (up to) \$4000 to put a scoreboard in the facility. The prices we have received are in the \$3500 to \$4000 range – hopefully we can get some sponsorship to help with it but right now we don't have it. So, to go forward with the program we need approval for a scoreboard spending up to \$4000.

The Chairman asked the Administrator if the league could afford that kind of money? Recreation contingency has \$8000 so believe it could be paid from 806-279. Councilman Hudson made the motion to approve the \$4000 from the 806-279 for the scoreboard. Councilman Kitchens seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Adams stated that for some years the Edgefield County EMS has used the Merriwether Fire Department as its station for that part of the county. Previously there was an understanding that the County EMS would pay half the energy bills and the fire department pay the other half. The fire department has decided that since EMS is

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there full time and uses most of the energy that they are going to ask us to pay 85% of the energy costs. We are there full time, and we suppose this is our only alternative to moving to another station. The difference would mean about \$1600 more for the year. Will come from FY 04-05. We thought we would have to move, and we had in the budget about \$3000 in the budget for furniture and up-fits for the building that we would have gone to. We would take it out of those funds. The move would be to the Moore Road Substation on Sweetwater Road. Council received this as information pending information concerning the areas that the most calls are received, and put this on the January agenda.

External Auditing Services

The following RFP's have been received for external auditing services for Edgefield County.

McAbee, Talbert, Halliday & Co.	\$31,330	Rating (87 points)
Elliott Davis, LLC	\$27,500	Rating (99 points)
Walda Wildman, LLC	\$29,300	Rating (59 points)

Mr. Adams explained that there were four categories used to rate the firms. The "audit approach" portion was not influenced because of the familiarity with Elliott Davis. This was a written document. Qualifications and experience of the staff were based on the proposals submitted to the county describing the accountants' background and governmental accounting experience. Substantially, similar forms of government that they have audited in the past, we used a list of their references for that, so that, we believe, was objective. Of course, proposal pricing is probably the most objective part of their proposal.

The question was asked if there are any guidelines in the state as to how long you can continue with an auditing firm. Mr. Adams said he had talked with the Association of Counties about that and he was referred to Code Section 4-9-150: "Such audits shall be made by a certified public accountant or firm of such accountants who have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the county government or any of its officers. The council may, without requiring competitive bids, designate such accountant or firm annually or for a period not exceeding one year."

Councilman Kitchens made the motion to continue with Elliott Davis, but do this every year. Councilman Hudson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

ECCHO Building

Ms. Sallie Cooks spoke concerning the ECCHO building (old Health Dept., corner of Penn and Gray Streets. "I represent the Edgefield County Churches Helping Others (ECCHO) Board of Directors. First, I would like to thank you all for partnering with us for the past nine years in serving the needy people of this county.

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We help people with food, clothing, medicine, electricity, and shelter. The building is in poor condition – needs a new roof. We appreciate the county for making several attempts to repair the roof. At this time it will cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 to replace the roof and, of course, there are other repairs needed. In order to receive any assistance for repairs to the building from the United Way, ECCHO has to own the building. So, my request tonight is that council consider deeding the building to ECCHO, with the stipulation that if ECCHO ceases to use the building for charitable purposes, ownership will revert back to the county.” They are a non-profit organization – they have a 501-C3 status. Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to deed the ECCHO building to the ECCHO organization with the stipulation that it reverts back to the county if they cease to use the building for charitable purposes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Adams reminded Ms. Cooks and the council of the process that anytime the county sells a building or other property it has to be done by ordinance (three readings) with a public hearing.

Hospital Board

The Hospital Board of Trustees recommended to Council the appointments of Ms. Alva S. Lewis and Mr. Christopher S. Yonce to the Board filling the vacancies created by the resignations of Mr. Frank Feltham and Mrs. Betty Butler. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve these recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

Holiday Schedule

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the 2005 Edgefield County Holiday Schedule, same as the state. Motion carried unanimously.

Agricultural Use Assessment

Mr. Mark Daniel addressed Council concerning 7.8 acres of land he purchased April 22, 2002, from Mr. Glenn Hammond – it was agricultural use at the time. Mr. Daniel received an agricultural form for the following tax year and filled it out and returned it to the county. For some reason it was not received and he did not receive a tax bill until he received a certified notice at which time he started seeking out who to talk to. Another form was filled out, but got it corrected for 2004 tax year. The problem though is the 2003 tax year. After speaking with Mrs. Fox, the Assessor, (she told him how things worked) Mr. Daniel stated that he spoke with Mr. Adams and Mr. Adams worked diligently to find out what alternatives he might have and that was to address Council and appeal for an extension of his filing. It has been approved for agricultural use for 2004; the land use has not changed.

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Mr. Adams referred to the code section (Exh.10) which states that only the County Council can extend the filing deadline for agricultural use assessment. Councilman Hudson made the motion to extend the filing deadline for 2003 taxes for Mr. Mark Daniel. Councilman Kitchens seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Intergovernmental Meeting

After a brief discussion, Chairman Kneece made the motion to schedule Monday, January 31st for the intergovernmental meeting. It will be held at the Sertoma Club in Johnston, at 6:00 P.M. Motion seconded by Councilman Hudson and carried unanimously.

Old Business

Mrs. Gloria Bynum was present to discuss a request made previously concerning the acceptance of Highland Avenue Extension in Edgefield into the county's road maintenance system. The request, along with a petition, was made to the Town of Edgefield because it is in the city limits – then it was sent to the county and then to the Transportation Committee. Mr. Crouch spoke with Mrs. Bynum after the Transportation Committee met and told her because of the condition of the road they considered it to be too expensive for them to accept it and the petition would be sent back to the Council. Mrs. Bynum stated they have tried to maintain the road; have had the road crowned several times; have put gravel, and when it rains the puddles are there. There are others that own land and three homes there. We are asking Council to consider taking the road for maintenance. When the land was purchased they were told though it is in the city limits they could request that the county take it for maintenance. Before moving into their home they were told that it was a private road and it had to be maintained by the owners. It is a private road but it is an extension of Highland Avenue.

Ms. Bynum will talk with the property owners to obtain at least a forty foot right-of-way and then Mr. Gibson will take it before the Transportation Committee again.

No Guests

Executive Session

The Chairman called for a motion to go into executive session pursuant to Code Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended, to discuss negotiations incident to the proposed lease of the County's airport. Councilman Kitchens made the motion to go into executive session and return to regular session at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hudson.

Returning to regular session, the Chairman stated that no action was taken in execu-

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tive session. Council only received information from the attorney concerning the lease of the airport.

Claims approved as follows:

- A. **PAYROLL:** 10/25/04 thru 11/7/04
- Regular.....\$173,719.80
- PAYROLL:** 11/8/04 thru 11/21/04
- Regular.....\$174,097.89
- Sheriff's Dept. Bonuses** – 11/12/04.....\$1,950.00
- B. **General Operating**.....\$477,775.39

There being no further business, the Chairman asked for the motion to adjourn. Councilman Hudson made the motion. The next regular meeting of Council will be Tuesday, January 4, 2005.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

